In the claims:

1 (currently amended).   A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

~~automatically~~ at a trading platform executing on at least one computer, executing a set of order handling programs to generate respective trading processes, each trading process <u>being a computer program</u> operating according to a respective trading methodology <u>and being configured with parameters</u> selected by a user of the trading process, each of the trading methodologies incorporating standards for using the trading platform, and

~~automatically~~ at the trading platform, routing orders from the set of trading processes to a plurality of markets in accordance with the respective trading methodologies.

2 (original).   The method of claim 1, wherein one of the orders from one of the trading processes is routed to at least two of the markets.

3 (currently amended).   The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically routing is in accordance with a relationship <u>represented by a code defined</u> between the trading process and the market.

4 (canceled).   ~~The method of claim 3, wherein the relationship is represented by a code defined between the trading process and the market.~~

5 (currently amended).   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the markets is <u>an</u> informal <u>market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency</u>.

6 (original).   The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically routing is based on information internal to the trading processes.

7 (currently amended).   The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically routing is based on information obtained from <u>data-providing</u> processes ~~external to~~ <u>other than</u> the trading processes for deciding how to ~~automatically~~ route.

8 (cancelled).   ~~The method of claim 7, wherein the external processes are informational processes.~~

9 (currently amended).   The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~external~~ <u>data-providing</u> processes ~~are~~ <u>provide</u> market ~~processes~~ data including price quotation data or last sale data.

10 (currently amended). A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

~~automatically~~ at a computer, receiving an order from a user, and

~~automatically~~ at the computer, routing the order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with a set of conditional rules selected from a plurality of sets of conditional rules by the user.

11 (previously presented). The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table.

12 (currently amended). The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules depends on relationships <u>represented by respective codes defined</u> between the user and the plurality of markets.

13 (previously presented). The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules depends on the order characteristics.

14 (currently amended). The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules depends on the ~~market~~ <u>information provision and order processing</u> characteristics <u>of the at least one of a plurality of markets</u>.

15 (cancelled).

16 (cancelled).

17 (currently amended). The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules includes a discovery strategy and an action strategy<u>, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for whether and how to obtain price quotations for the at least one of a plurality of markets, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters</u>.

18 (currently amended). The method of claim 17, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market<u> provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency</u>.

19 (currently amended). The method of claim 17, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of: (i) no discovery, (ii) a market <u>status</u> board <u>maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets</u>, (iii) querying selected <u>ones of the plurality of</u> markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

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20 (original). The method of claim 17, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

21 – 24. (cancelled)

25 (previously presented). A method of routing an order, comprising:

building an action list for the order in accordance with a set of conditional rules, the building being performed by an order handling program executing on a computer, and

routing the order to at least one destination in accordance with the action list, the routing being performed by the order handling program.

26 (previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the action list is based on the order characteristics.

27 (previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the action list is based on the destination characteristics.

28 (previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the action list is based on data obtained to make a routing decision for this order.

29 (previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the action list is based on data obtained for a reason other than making a routing decision for this order.

30 (currently amended). The method of claim 25, wherein the action list is ~~basedon~~ based on a relationship between the order handling program and the destination.

31 (new). The method of claim 10, wherein the order is routed to at least two markets.